



Individual Beverage Heater (IBH)



What It Is:

The Individual Beverage Heater is a low-cost concept with a big impact on meal preparation: it's a small bag that — used together with the Flameless Ration Heater — can heat the water in a canteen or a canteen cup.

Why It's Needed:

Soldiers have been heating their MRE (Meal, Ready-to-Eat) rations using a water-activated heater called the Flameless Ration Heater — but, on its own, it's not well suited for heating beverages. Another problem: in cold weather it's difficult to keep water in a canteen from freezing.

How It Works:

The Individual Beverage Heater is simply an expandable, flat-bottomed bag that can be packed as a part of the MRE. Remove the bag and open it up, then fold a Flameless Ration Heater in half and put it in the bottom of the bag. Now place a canteen cup of water in the bag: you can quickly heat 8 to 10 ounces of water up to 140° F. Together the Individual Beverage Heater and the Flameless Ration Heater can keep a soldier's canteen from freezing in cold weather — or thaw a frozen canteen.

Other Options...A high-temperature heater that uses a self-contained chemical heat source to heat a ration and a beverage at the same time. Commercial beverage heaters are also being investigated.

Benefits:

New Capabilities...Now the Flameless Ration Heater can be used to heat rations and beverages.

Low Cost and Low Risk...The Individual Beverage Heater is an economical solution that is flameless and safe.

Point of Contact:

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